

An Essay on

Voluntary Homeopathic Proving

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by

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Involuntary Homoeopathic Proving,

The involuntary provings of drugs, in the daily experience of life, are replete with interest and value to the student of Homoeopathy. The abundant reports of the effects of drugs in large doses to be found in the various Allopathic works on Materia Medica; the numerous cases of accidental poisoning; the well known action of various articles of domestic medicine, employed in large quantities or for long periods of time, should, indeed, engage the early and constant attention of the disciple of Hahnemann.

The Materia Medica pura and our own careful provings ought of course to form the basis of our knowledge in the

application of remedies; but the field of
 inquiry here indicated is rich in facts and
 suggestive matter, which cannot fail
 to throw much light upon our own great
 law of Cure & may help us to remedies
 of no little value. In this investiga-
 tion the student of Homoeopathy should
 be careful not to accept, in any instance,
 the declarations of Allopathic writers,
 that any drug (provided you use enough
 of it) is in itself capable of curing any
 special disease: but should keep con-
 stantly in mind the great law of
 drug effects & the remedial action of
 small doses, thus educing from Allo-
 pathic errors and abuses the true art
 of healing. In this view of the Allo-
 pathic Materia Medica the works of

Wood & Bache, Pereira, Royle, Christison, Taylor, King (Eclectic) and numerous other writers possess a deep interest for the Student of Homoeopathy and may be daily consulted with infinite advantage,

So infallible is the law of cure upon which our practice is based, that if a Homoeopath were accidentally thrown among a semi-barbarous people, and deprived of our established remedies and authorities, by enquiring into the action of their common domestic remedies he would be enabled ~~be~~ enabled in a very short time to provide himself with an extensive and tolerably efficient Materia Medica. It is by no means desirable that the Student of Homoeopathy should confine himself to Homoeopathic Manuals & Repertories

for if our own *Materia Medica* fail us we may possibly obtain from Allopathic reports of drug effects, or from a variety of other sources, the very remedy required in some peculiar form of disease. The junior in medicine is apt to follow the books too closely, without sufficient exercise of his own judgement and hence is liable to fail in the application of medicines under our law. The Homoeopathic book doctor is often as much in error as the Allopathic dealer in formulas, though the small dose practitioner is much the less dangerous of the two.

In illustration of the position assumed in the opening of this paper, I will quote the remarks of several Allopathic authorities in relation to

the action of certain drugs in large doses, and give the result of some applications of these drugs in small doses, which I have myself made, according to our own Specific law of Cure. These drugs were, in most cases, such as have not been regularly proven after our method: but the involuntary or accidental provings, in allopathic practice, were striking, and afforded clear & valuable indications of their true remedial uses or dynamic power, in small doses.

Helianthus Annuus, (Sun Flower)

On several occasions I had opportunities of testing the virtues of this drug, in cases of patients afflicted with constant & profuse Diuresis. I wished

of course to administer a simple Diuretic,
 I employed with partial success Buchu, Uva
 Ursi, Squilla, Sweet Spirits of Nitre, the lat-
 ter in full strength as kept in the Allopathic
 shops, in doses of one or two drops, Not
 being satisfied with these remedies I
 looked carefully through several Au-
 thorities for something more effective,
 During this search I hit upon the fol-
 lowing in Kings American Eclectic Dispens-
 satory Page 526 respecting the effect of
Helianthus Annuus, "The seeds, leaves
 & pith" says Dr King possess great diu-
retic properties", The dose mentioned
 by Dr King is 10 or 15 drops, three times
 a day, He also states "that a Spoonful
 of the oil taken at a dose, produced
active diuresis for four consecutive

days, accompanied towards the termination with great pain & debility in the lumbar region,

I determined to try it in cases of diuresis and at once made a tincture & gave it in dilution. The remedial effect was highly satisfactory. But as the essential principle of Helianthus lies chiefly in the oil, I was not satisfied with the tincture & had it triturated up to the 3^d Attenuation in which form I have found it one of the most reliable of remedies in cases of frequent urinating where there is simple diuresis accompanied by an irritable state of the Kidneys & Bladder, unattended by Dysuria or Strangury or any morbid condition of the mucous Membrane. In cases of Paralysis of the Neck of the Bladder, I showed of

course look to some other drug for relief,

Dr King mentions another remedy at Page 459 of his Dispensatory which I have no doubt would be quite as efficient as the former remedy in cases of dysuria. I allude to Eupatorium Purpureum (Queen of the Meadow). "The active principle of this drug" says Dr King "when given in three grain doses repeated every three or four hours is a most powerful diuretic, occasioning in some instances an enormous flow of urine,"

Here certainly are marked indications for the Homoeopathic application of this drug. I cannot however speak of its Homoeopathic value not having tested it,

Cimicifuga Racemosa (Black Cohosh)

"This" says Dr King "is a very active, powerful and useful remedy. It exerts a tonic influence over both serous and mucous tissues. In large doses it produces Vertigo, impaired vision, nausea, vomiting and reduction of the circulation, but no alarming narcoitic effects," "I have" continues Dr King "known three drops of the saturated tincture given ~~every~~ hour for twenty hours, to produce symptoms every way simulating Delirium Tremens,

How suggestive of usefulness in Homoeopathic practice are the above remarks, Although I have not tested it, I have little doubt that *Cimicifuga Racemosa* might prove more efficacious than even *Belladonna* & *Stras-*

(10)
monium in delirium,

Hydrastis Canadensis (Golden Seal)
I quote Dr King, "This he says a tonic
and its peculiar action is upon diseased
mucous tissue. When given in large
doses it produces excessive secretions from
the mucous surfaces, especially those of
the mouth and nose, so much so that the
secretions were removed by patients in long
tenacious shreds or pieces,"

I have met with more decidedly
beneficial results from the use of Hy-
drastin by injection in cases of morbid
secretion of the urethra, vagina & other
mucous surfaces, than from Sulph Zinc,
Nitric Acid, or any of the remedies com-
monly employed in such cases,

Gelsinium Sempervirens (Yellow Jessamine), "The effect of massive doses of this substance" says Dr King "are as follows; Clouded vision, double sightedness or even complete prostration & inability to open the eyes. It likewise produces complete & powerful relaxation of every tissue of the body (except the uterus) accompanied by nervous prostration & when pushed to its fullest extent with doses sufficiently large it produces full constitutional effects & even in fair the muscular tonicity of the heart, "If carried" continues Dr King "to such an extent that the patient cannot open his eyes, the relaxation may be too great for the system to recover from, hence its use should cease as soon as the above named symptoms have been produced."

What a sad perversion is this of the true remedial application of drugs & how unfavorably does such a course contrast with the humane Homoeopathic Law as laid down by its illustrious founder. Having had an opportunity of testing the efficacy of this remedy on Homoeopathic principles, in cases of excessive physical & nervous prostration, with the happiest results, I am prepared to believe that it would in many cases prove as truly valuable an agent as either China, Arsenic or Veratrum. In one instance a patient declared that its effect was "delightfully exhilarating & strengthening".

Baptista Trictoria, Of this drug which is now somewhat employed by

Homoeopathic practitioners in Typhoid Fever, it is said by Dr King "that in large doses it invariably produces purging, nausea & a disagreeable relaxation of the nervous system," which are well known characteristic symptoms of Typhoid Fever,

Eryngium Aquaticum (Button Snake Root)

In consequence of a hint obtained from Hill & Hunt's Surgery Page 400, where Dr Parks of Cincinnati mentions two remarkable ^{cure of} cases of ~~Spermatorrhoea~~ by its use, I was led to make a thorough trial of it. I now consider it one of the most reliable remedies that can be used for the purpose of allaying chronic inflammation of the urethra & in effectually removing obstinate

Spermatic & mucous discharges, Dr King, in the Eclectic Dispensatory before referred to, notices this substance at some length, but does not give any striking pathogenetic effects of large doses, by which its Homoeopathic value in diseases of the urinary & sexual organs could be inferred, He merely says "it is diuretic & in moderate doses is useful in Gonorrhoea, Bleet, Leucorrhoea,"—possibly in these statements stumbling upon a truth,

I have used it chiefly in cases of supposed Seminal Weakness with discharge from the urethra after urinating & at stool, agreeably to the suggestion of Prof Hill & find it the most useful remedy I can employ in such cases, I have never relied upon it in Bleet, although I have

Sometimes used it in protracted cases, where I suspect seminal weakness, I am by no means convinced that the discharge cured by Eryngium is of a seminal or spermatic character. It may be mucus or it may be a secretion of the Prostate Gland. Suffice it to say, however, that it is a very common disorder & that Eryngium is of great service in a large proportion of cases & frequently cures.

The dose mentioned by Dr King is 20 to 40 grains of the root to be taken several times a day. I use it in powders of 3 Fortification ($\frac{1}{2}$ gr doses) 3 times a day 6 to 12 days at a time. The success which has attended its continued use was highly satisfactory,

Collinsonia Canadensis (Hardhack)

A gentleman was severely afflicted with Hemorrhoids & Prolapsus Ani, I gave him Podophyllin & Antimony Crudum irum/ (remedies which have done good service in my experience in such cases) with little or no success, The patient soon after ate of State Cucumbers & was seized with active Diarrhoea, To relieve him I gave him Arsenic 3 dilution, The Diarrhoea was checked at once & at the same time the Piles were temporarily relieved, [Query: As nearly all our successful remedies for Piles, from their very nature as Pile producing drugs, must have Diarrhoea as a prominent Symptom how would it answer in such cases to set upon artificial

Diarrhoea by means of a drastic purga-
 tive before giving the Homoeopathic Specific
 is?]. The patient, in this case was con-
 stipated. Podophyllin and Antimony inum-
 brum are not especial remedies for
 Constipation hence they could not re-
 lieve him. My opinion however is that
 the Piles might have been relieved by
 the above remedies or by Calycanth,
 Aloes, Mercurius, or any other drastic
 purgative having a special affinity to
 the rectum. In cases of Constipation
 I presume that Opium would be spe-
 cific to Piles, but I have usually found
 that Homoeopathic Agents directed
 against atony of parts are very slow
 and uncertain in their action.

The Hemorrhoidal Symptoms return-

ing, after an interval I had recourse to Aconite, Nux. Sulphur, Hamamelis and drugs usually relied upon in such cases, but without success. At last my attention was directed to Collinsonia Canadensis from some remarks in the Eclectic Dispensatory, and having from various sources learned its direct and powerful action upon the entire lower viscera. I was induced to employ it in this case. It was entirely successful in removing the excessive tenesmus, bloody discharges and violent irritation &c. Other diurnal reports, from members of our own school, indicate that it is a remedy of much value in cases of Constipation & Piles,

Accidental proving of Arsenic,
 Pereira and other standard authorities teach us that one of the characteristic effects of large doses of Arsenious acid is to produce engorgement of the nervous and vascular systems, swelling and puffiness of the eyelids and cheeks, soreness of the nose and violent redness of the conjunctiva, and Practitioners are cautioned to desist from its use altogether or else continue the remedy in small doses when this state of things is produced,

In consequence of these statements its Homoeopathic Application was suggested in a case of Chronic Epistaxis of the most violent Character in the Case of a Merchant about

55 Years of age, The annoyance was very great from the fact that the hemorrhage was liable to recur at any moment. At times when employed at his Day Book or Ledger the blood would gush forth without any apparent cause such as over exertion &c These attacks were accompanied by great debility consequent upon loss of blood, China and Arsenic would of course be Homoeopathic to debility but Arsenic was chosen because in strict accordance with existing symptoms, The Homoeopathic Repertories and Hand Books do not however point to Arsenic as a capital remedy for nasal hemorrhage, nevertheless its use in this case fully corroborated

the fact that whenever our law is strictly followed success is sure to ensue, The patient was speedily cured after Aconite, Arsenic, Pulsatilla, Arnica, Belladonna, Sanguinaria &c had been used without success,

The curative Homoeopathy is results obtained in the above cases, merely from hints which were suggested by Allopathic abuses, strikingly illustrate the truth of our own great law and afford the highest possible encouragement to the student of our School that in adopting our theory of the remedial action of drugs

he is not accepting a delusive fallacy, but that whenever and wherever the true effects of a drug can be ascertained, in extreme doses, there will be exhibited a clear indication of its Homoeopathic use, which will infallibly lead him to its correct & efficient application in cases of disease having analogous symptoms.

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